

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating powder particles consisting of a Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ compound,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising the steps of:

placing the powder particles and ~~an amount of sulfur are placed~~ into a vessel, and

~~heating the vessel contents consisting of~~ comprising the powder particles and the sulfur ~~are heated up and kept~~ maintaining the vessel contents at a constant temperature for a period of time sufficient to heat the particles.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising filling

the particles and the sulfur ~~are filled~~ into a two-zone ampoule, ~~whereby~~ placing the powder particles ~~are placed~~ into one of the zones and placing the amount of sulfur is placed into the other zone.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one or both of Claims~~ Claim 1 and 2,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising heating

the particles ~~are heated up~~ to a temperature between 400°C and 600°C [~~752°F and 1112°F~~] (752°F and 1112°F).

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one or more of the preceding~~ claims,

~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, comprising heating

the sulfur ~~is heated up~~ to a temperature of about 100°C [~~212°F~~] (212°F).

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one or more of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ Claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising maintaining

the particles and the sulfur ~~are kept~~ at a constant temperature for a period of time
between one hour and 50 hours.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising filling

a mixture ~~consisting of~~ the powder particles and the sulfur ~~is filled~~ into an ampoule.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one or both of Claims 1 and~~
Claim 7,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising heating

the mixture ~~consisting of the powder particles and the sulfur is heated~~ to a temperature
between 300°C and 600°C [~~572°F and 1112°F~~] (572°F and 1112°F).

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1, 6~~
~~and~~ Claim 7,

~~characterized in that~~ comprising maintaining

the mixture ~~consisting of powder particles and sulfur is kept~~ at a given temperature for
a period of time between ~~[[5]]~~ five minutes and ~~[[4]]~~ four hours.

9. (Currently Amended) A mono-particle membrane solar cell comprising a back
contact, a mono-particle membrane, at least one semiconductor layer and a front contact,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the mono-particle membrane contains the powder particles treated according to ~~one or~~
~~more of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 8.